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REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

ORIENTAL ARCHÆOLOGY.

ERNEST BABELON. *Manuel d'Archéologie Orientale. Chaldée—Assyrie—Perse—Syrie—Judée—Phénicie—Carthage.* [Bibliothèque de l'Enseignement des Beaux-Arts] 8vo, pp. 318. Paris, 1888, Quantin.

About a year ago, M. Maspéro published, in this excellent series, a volume on Egyptian Archæology: the present volume is its fellow, and the two together cover the entire history of art before the rise of Greece. M. Babelon has been well prepared for the task by special studies, as shown in his extremely competent revision and continuation of Lenormant's great work: *Histoire ancienne de l'Orient*. As he remarks, there were two artistic currents in the ancient East, one originating in Egypt, the other in Mesopotamia; in them all other minor streams of artistic development have their source. M. Babelon here treats of the second of these great currents in all its ramifications.

I. *Babylonian art.* In this chapter, the writer founds himself almost entirely on the results of the excavations by M. de Sarzec at Telloh, and discusses the subject under the heads of (*a*) architecture, (*b*) statues and reliefs, (*c*) small sculpture and industrial arts, (*d*) glyptics. A careful description is given of the palace at Telloh, and the theory of the invention and use of the dome and vault by the Babylonians is adopted, on grounds which to us are quite inconclusive. It appears, however, that in its ground-plan at least the Babylonian royal palace was the prototype of the Assyrian. The various stages in the development of early Babylonian sculpture from about 3000 to 2000, as shown by the Telloh sculptures, are clearly given, as well as the later style during the period of decline.

II. *Assyrian art.* Under (*a*) architecture, we have chapters on the elements of construction, showing how the Assyrians, having stone quarries near at hand, made a considerable use of stone to face their brick walls, and so had the advantage over the Babylonians, who were confined to bricks and could procure stone only from foreign quarries; and that the usual method of covering spaces was by vaults and domes, both Babylonians and Assyrians making but a sparing use of free supports. Sargon's palace is naturally taken as the type, but other phases of Assyrian architecture are treated under the heads of many-storied temples and towers, and cities and their fortifications. In his treatment of (*b*) statuary and sculpture in relief,

the writer is at home in the characteristics of the different periods and in the general style, but is somewhat prone to minimize its excellencies and enlarge on its defects. There are other chapters on works in metal; works in wood and ivory; on leather and stuffs; and on jewelry and cylinders.

III. *Persian art.* For Persian, as for Babylonian art, perhaps the most important studies and excavations have been made by a Frenchman. The writer's review of this branch of his subject is founded in great part on M. Dieulafoy's *Art Antique de la Perse* and his excavations at Susa, as well as the great work of Flandin and Coste. There are chapters on civil architecture, on sculpture, on painting and enamel work, on religious and sepulchral monuments, and on engraved stones and jewelry.

IV. *The Hittites.* In treating of Hittite archæology, the writer divides it into (a) the monuments of Syria, a mere barbarous reproduction of Assyrian art; (b) those of Kappadokia, which show a compromise between the influences of Egypt and Assyria, though the latter is especially strong; and (c) those of Asia Minor.

V. *Jewish art.* The temple of Jerusalem is restored according to M. de Vogüé's theories, which are closely followed in every respect. The decoration and furniture of the temple, the civil architecture and the tombs, are treated separately.

VI. *Phœnician and Kypriote art.* The temples, of which so little is known, the better-known civil architecture, the tombs, sculpture in its different phases and periods, especially in Kypros, and ceramics, glass, bronzes, jewelry and engraved stones, are summarily exhibited in as many chapters.

The method of the book is clear, the style pleasant, the erudition sure, the correspondence of parts good, and the illustrations numerous, well-chosen, and, though small, are executed with accuracy and artistic delicacy. It will serve admirably as a text-book.

A. L. FROTHINGHAM, JR.

ISAAC BLOCH. *Inscriptions tumulaires des anciens cimetières Israélites d'Alger.* 8vo, pp. III-142. Paris, 1888.

The first three chapters are devoted to an historical account of the Jewish cemeteries of Algiers. These are followed by a description of forty-eight sepulchral slabs with the text and translation of their inscriptions, which are sometimes bilingual, Hebrew and Spanish. To this is added a full biography and bibliography of the persons buried under these slabs, beginning in the XIII century.—H. D. DE GRAMMONT in *Revue Critique*, 1889, No. 3.

GUIL. BUECHNER. *De Neocoria.* 8vo, pp. 132. Giessen, 1888, Ricker.

This is a treatise on the obscure question of the Asiatic cities called, on inscriptions or coins, *neocoria*, because they possessed one or more temples